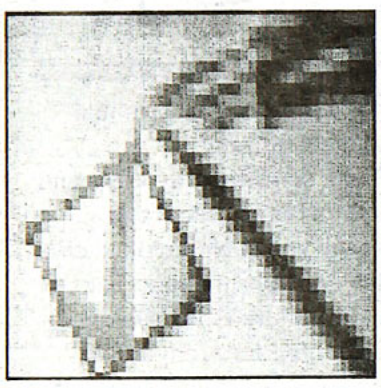
THE Lions' Pride
OF SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2004 VOLUME XXXVIII No. 6 SINCE 1965

Today



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Many students may not realize that one benefit of Campus Safety is to ensure their well-being. These are dedicated men and women who watch over the students. Page 3

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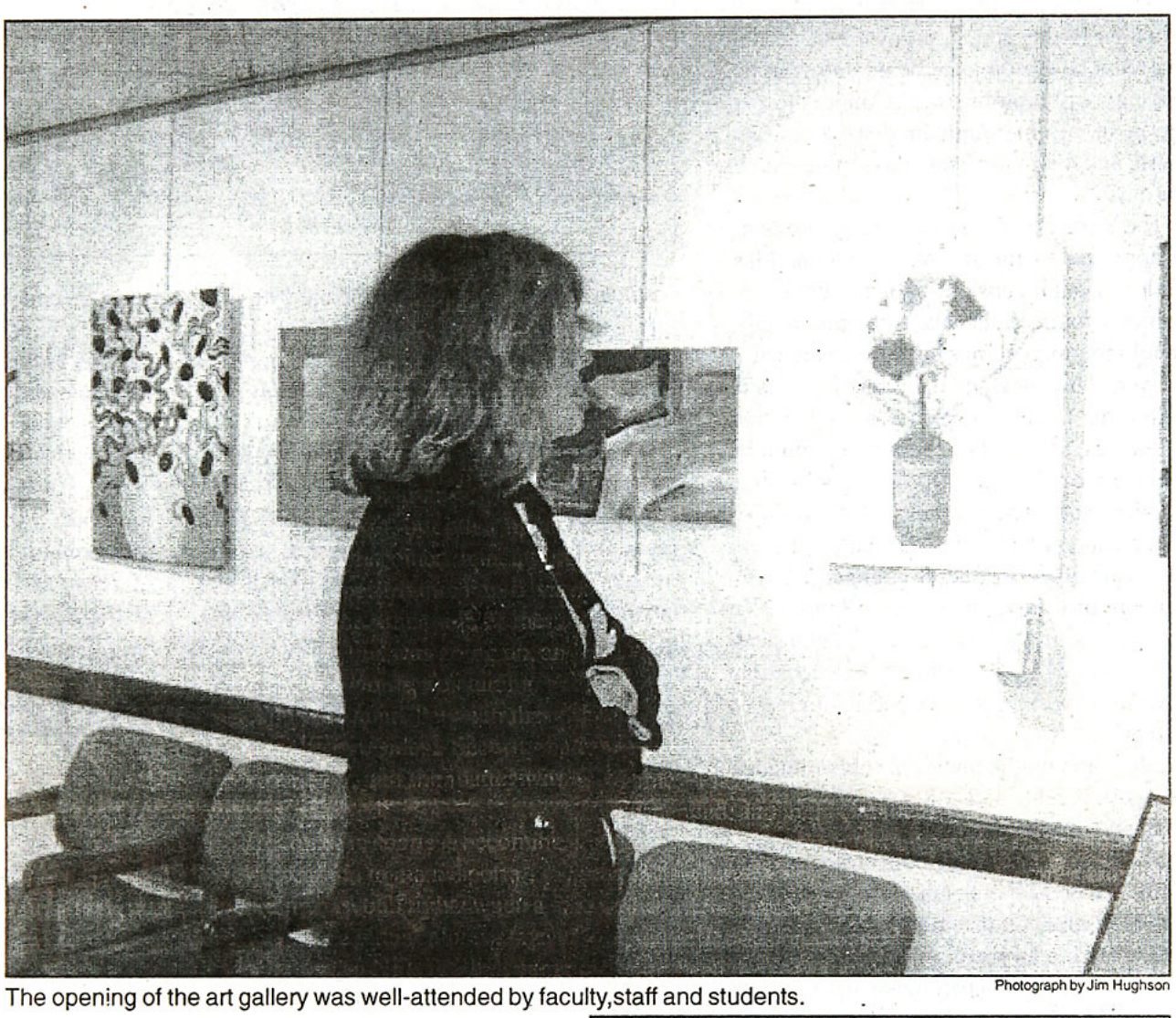


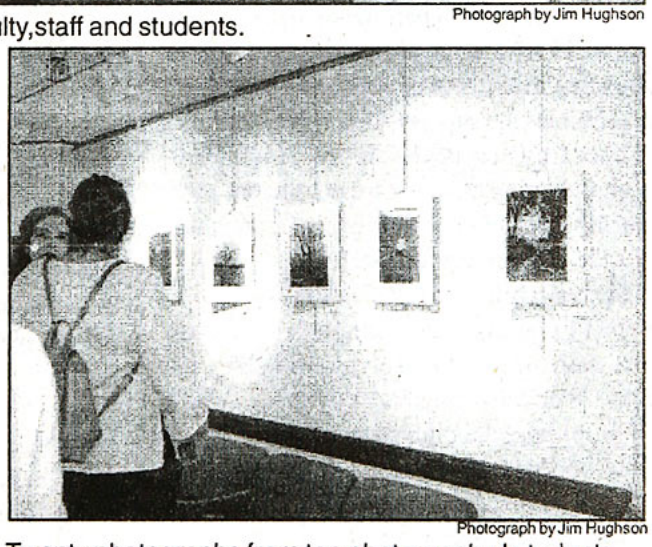
The opening of the art gallery was well-attended by faculty,staff and students.

Photograph by Jim Hughson

Display of talent for all to view

Talented students have an opportunity to have their work viewed.

BY MELANIE WEITZ
Lions' Pride Staff



Photograph by Jim Hughson

Twenty photographs from ten photography I students are exhibited as are several paintings and pencil drawings from students in Karen Philips' classes.

SAINT LEO - With so many talents present on Saint Leo University campus, it is hard to recognize them all. But, we can at least recognize a few. Located in the lobby of Saint Edwards Hall, there is a student art gallery for all to view.

"We have many talented students on campus whose works were never seen except by their classmates in their art classes," explains Dr. Mary Spoto, chair of the English department and a member of the committee for the art gallery. "We hope now the gallery will give both the university community and visitors a chance to see and enjoy student works."

The new exhibit; which has been on display since November 18, consists of photography and paintings.

"We will be having refreshments and music at the openings of each show [and] the openings will be held at 5 p.m., so students and staff can attend," states Spoto. The current show will be displayed in Saint Edwards Hall until the last day of classes in December. Then, all can look forward to viewing a new exhibit in the spring.

"The steering committee will announce to all students and staff the date when a new exhibit will be opening," clarifies Dr. James Hughson, who is also on the committee.

Future art exhibits that will be displayed in Saint Edwards Hall will not only be for students who have something they want to display, but also for artistically

Opinions

EDITORIAL

Hooligans not allowed after 11 p.m.

JENNIFER REILLY
Entertainment Editor

SAINT LEO - Most modern teenagers do not begin their Friday and Saturday nights until 11 p.m., but a new ordinance being enforced in Ybor City will prohibit anyone under the age of 18 to be in the entertainment district between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m. on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday

The Ybor City Child Protection Ordinance was approved by the Tampa City Council last month and is fair considering the trouble rebellious youths can cause when put in an alcohol spouting, promiscuous environment, however, standing alone it will not be effective.

In order to enforce such a law, education must be aggressive. The ordinance should be publicized in public and private school systems, through police officers, county politicians, teachers, and parents. Optimistically, the ordinance will take effect if younger people are aware of the fact they are no longer allowed to be in the Ybor City area and strict enforcement will occur. Hopefully, education and warning will be enough before aggressive enforcement is necessary.

Education on the matter of this ordinance must spark parents and children alike to use their personal accountability and parental responsibility to ensure that the ordinance is not broken. Police officers cannot be forced to baby-sit children on the street who, by law, are not supposed to be there.

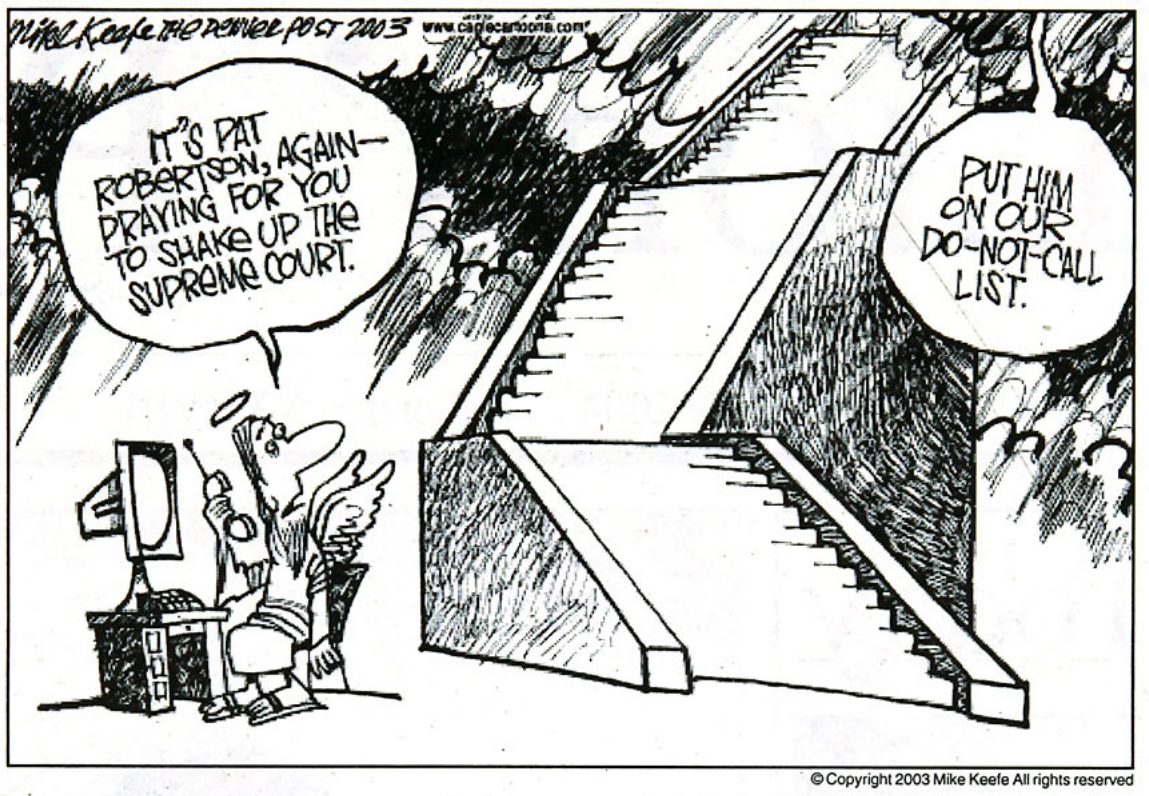
The ordinance will permit any person under the age of 18 who is traveling to or from work, participating in a school or church sponsored event, or under the supervision of their parents to be in Ybor City despite the curfew. However, these churchgoing children are not the ones who are stirring up trouble outside of clubs, and they are not the ones carrying fake ID's.

The availability of fake ID's is so convenient that even the youngest of kids can acquire them, make themselves look older, and visit the 18 and up clubs in Ybor. If they don't cause problems, the club owner cannot assume they are underage and police are never aware, and therefore the ordinance is not enforced.

Furthermore, who is to say what the boundaries are for carding someone who is trying to enjoy the Ybor nightlife. Thanks to makeup and skimpy clothing, younger girls can look 21. Common sense must be the only factor in carding people.

The enforcement of this ordinance will include a warning to teens who refuse to leave after being informed of the curfew. If they are found in Ybor after hours again within six months, they could be arrested for trespassing; however Police Maj. George McNamara said they would arrest only as a last resort. Children must be educated on what weight a criminal record can have on their futures.

An ordinance with so many gray areas and unpredictability in enforcement cannot be responsible for keeping young children out of a district that has such a high crime rate. The child's parents and the children themselves must take responsibility for the wrongdoings they commit while they are roaming the streets of Ybor City. Until then the entertainment district will be utilized by people of all ages, with most officials not knowing the difference.



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Justices need no expiration date

STAFF EDITORIAL
Northern Star (Northern Illinois U.)

(U-WIRE) DEKALB, Ill. — An Associated Press poll published Monday found that six in 10 Americans think there should be a mandatory retirement age for Supreme Court justices — but in this case, the majority shouldn't rule.

The Constitution mandates lifetime appointment for the justices for a reason. It takes years upon years of experience to be able to do the role of a justice. The Supreme Court is made up of experts on the law who are in charge of enforcing — and interpreting — the Constitution. We don't need young-uns taking over and passing rulings that have the potential to change the Constitution.

America is a country where everyone is welcome and everyone has rights, regardless of how old they are. But forcing a justice into retirement at a certain age takes away that justice's right to work — and enforces age discrimination. Individuals in other jobs cannot be hired or fired on the basis of age; justices shouldn't be any different.

Just because someone is getting older doesn't mean he or she is incompetent. All but one of the current justices is older than 65, with the oldest being 80. But not everyone over 65 is senile.

If the people of this country trust the justices to uphold the Constitution, the people also can trust them to step down if they don't feel they hold the needed mental capacities to continue their duties.

Amending the Constitution to force justices to retire would imply that the United States supports the stereotype that the elderly can't work.

Being older than 65 doesn't mean a person has lost his or her sense of logic or that they are senile. Some people go senile at 60 and some at 85. A certain age at which a person's judgment should be questioned simply cannot be determined.

WRITE HERE

The Lions' Pride newsroom is located in portable #4, which is on the west side of St. Edward's Hall. Our phone number is (352) 588-8195.

Send letters to the editor to lions.pride@saintleo.edu

Letters to the editor must be submitted with student's name, year, and major. Faculty and staff members must include rank and department.

Please include a phone number (not for publication) so we can verify authorship.

All letters are subject to editing.
The Lions' Pride reserves the right not to publich any letter or column.

LIONS' PRIDE STAFF

Staff:
Leonard Bates
Tasha Fredericks (editor)
Jason Howard
Matt McGowan (sports)
Paul Peterson
Jennifer Reilly (entertainment editor)
Louis Ritucci (sports)
John D. Rizzo
Carly Romero (photographer)
Danielle Rossi
Melanie Weitz

Advisors:
Dr. Mark Edmonds
Mrs. Valerie Kasper

Photograph by Carly Romero

Jerome Helton, director of campus safety, would like students to know that her door is always open.

Campus safety for everyone

BY JOHN D. RIZZO
Lions' Pride Staff

SAINT LEO - From the beautiful Lake Jovita to the unique and aged architecture surrounding Saint Leo University, students have much to be proud of on campus. However, students may not realize that one other benefit exists on campus that ensures their well-being. This benefit is Campus safety, previously known as Campus security, and is compiled of dedicated men and women who watch over the students.

"Most universities have changed to campus safety," said Jerome Helton, director of campus safety. Security and safety go hand in hand."

Helton, who has been with Saint Leo for 25 years, left the police force to work directly with students. One way is through safety.

"In 1992, this campus was voted the safest campus," Helton said.

Helton said campus safety would like to continue that reputation; and in addition, they have several other goals.

"We'd like to better serve the students by offering jump starts for students who have trouble getting their vehicles started," she said. This is new this school year.

Also, campus safety would like to explain to students the 911 system on campus. The idea of this system being that students who are involved in an accident resulting in personal injury or fall into trouble are encouraged to notify campus safety. Students are not discouraged from dialing 911 but are encouraged to tell campus safety so that they may notify the nurse in the meantime or direct the police to where on campus they are needed. The same goes for the Pasco Fire Department if they are needed.

Students can also be involved in matters of safety on campus.

"The more eyes you have, the less crime you have," Helton said.

Helton said students need to be aware and report anything suspicious they may see. She would like students to know that her door is always open and that students may come to her with any questions they may have - even questions not dealing with security directly.

Annie delights audiences in Wesley Chapel

A new director for the Pasco Schools Center for the Arts at Wesley Chapel works wonders with the production.

BY PAUL PETERSON
Lions' Pride Staff

WESLEY CHAPEL - The local community youth theatre group Arts in Motion (AIM) put on their annual production on November 19-21 at the Pasco Schools Center for the Arts at Wesley Chapel. This year they performed *Annie* four times to four delighted audiences.

"Very impressive show," said Mrs. Sausmicat, an avid local theatre goer. Her enthusiasm was shared by all of the audience members.

Three Saint Leo students were allowed to observe the final dress rehearsal on Thursday, Nov. 18 and were delighted at the production. Saint Leo history professor John McTauge went to see the performance Saturday night and was impressed at the production quality.

Annie marked an amazing improvement from last year's production of *Peter Pan*. Not to imply that *Peter Pan* was not well done, but the new director, Roger Scruggs, is a professional in the highest degree and managed to do wonders for this production and for AIM as an organization.

The theatre needs many dedicated and talented people to produce the magic that gives it life. Scruggs is but one of those magicians, but he has had a little more experience than most with this sort of magic. He has been involved in theatre for many years and is skilled in many aspects of it, from set designing to harmony, not to mention he has been involved with the show *Annie* more than a few times.

"I have seen the cast take strides from the auditions to opening night. They have never stopped amazing me with their talent and dedication."
Roger Scruggs

"I am very glad to have been given opportunity to be involved in my fourteenth production of Annie," Scruggs said. "I have seen the cast take strides from the auditions to opening night. They have never stopped amazing me with their talent and dedication."

The production took months of preparation, planning, and rehearsals. It is truly a constructive community effort. Dozens of children acted, sang, and danced in it, many of them with years of experience. Dozens more parents, family members, and supporters were enriched by the good times they had helping make the production a success.

Matt Birmingham, the announcer during the show and a proud father of two performers, said good humouredly, "At least it keeps them off the streets."

The fundraising activities required for the production also bring the community together. Nine organizations joined the *Actors Circle*, with a donation of $250 each, five organizations joined the *Directors Circle* with $500 donations each, and one organization, the law firm of Greenfelder, Mander, Murphy, Dwyer & Morris, P.A. made up the *Producers Circle* with a $750 donation.

Nine-year-old Shelby Martin gave an outstanding performance as Annie.

"That girl has a pair of lungs," said Patrick McDermott, an accomplished musician and the director of the theatre.

All of the principal actors gave inspired performances, including Alee Hernandez as Miss Hannigan, Robby McNeel as Oliver Warbucks, and Gentry Mander as Grace. Buddy the dog, however, who played Sandy, was overcome a few times by stage fright, even to the point of vomiting once before going on, but it was his first performance after all. All of the actors (excluding Buddy) are local children in grades k-12.

"The show was superb all around," said spotlight operator Tyler Montieth.

Thanks to many people, but most notably Roger Scruggs, AIM has dramatically raised the bar on its level of performance, and the community at large cannot wait to see what comes next. Perhaps then, Saint Leo will have a larger presence in the audience.

Food for thought...

BY PAUL PETERSON
Lions' Pride Staff

In Gary Bracken's SLU 101 class on December 1, the entire class time was usurped in an in-depth, sometimes passionate, discussion on what is wrong with Saint Leo, and what can be done about it.

Dorm cleanliness, cafeteria food, lack of dorm discipline, and technology problems were some of the topics discussed; however, the main subject was a proposed answer to some of the criticisms, which would include a change to the freshman schedule that would make freshman year as much, if not more, regimented than high school was. This plan includes a mandatory, enforced two hour daily study session. This plan would have quarterly classes; each class would run for two hours four days a week for eight weeks. Students would take three classes per quarter. In addition to the mandatory study hall, there would be a mandatory class assembly every Wednesday morning.

"Freshman year is the most important year" said Bracken, who later added, "Any student who can pull a 3.0 or higher GPA is set for the rest of their four years."

According to Bracken, too many kids are doing too poorly in their most important year. Is this because Saint Leo freshman are still more child-like than adult-like? Is it because this new generation has had much more regimented and sheltered lives, which discourages independent responsibility? Is Saint Leo University partly to blame?

Maybe students who get wasted nightly, who blare music at 3 a.m., who cry to mommy when they do poorly in a class, or who pee on the floor of shared bathrooms should pack up and go back to grade school. It was determined that most all of the problems discussed in Bracken's class are caused or greatly worsened by student irresponsibility and laziness.

Will an influx of structure, which one student likened to a concentration camp, solve this problem or just cover up the fundamental issue by producing better report cards to show mommy?

One student claimed to be under the impression that one of the biggest reasons for going to college was for character development, for becoming a productive citizen as well as a productive unit of human capital. One would think that most of the parents of Saint Leo students would disagree. However, is it not a University's responsibility to emphasize this, being a Catholic university? Should Saint Leo not emphasize this even more than all other Universities?

"I think so," says sophomore student Brendan Riley.

College is a time of experimentation, mistakes, and fun. Constructive, responsible fun should be encouraged. Drinking until you barf on your roommate's bed is destructive. Any regimented study program will fail unless it also introduces constructive, responsible pastimes.

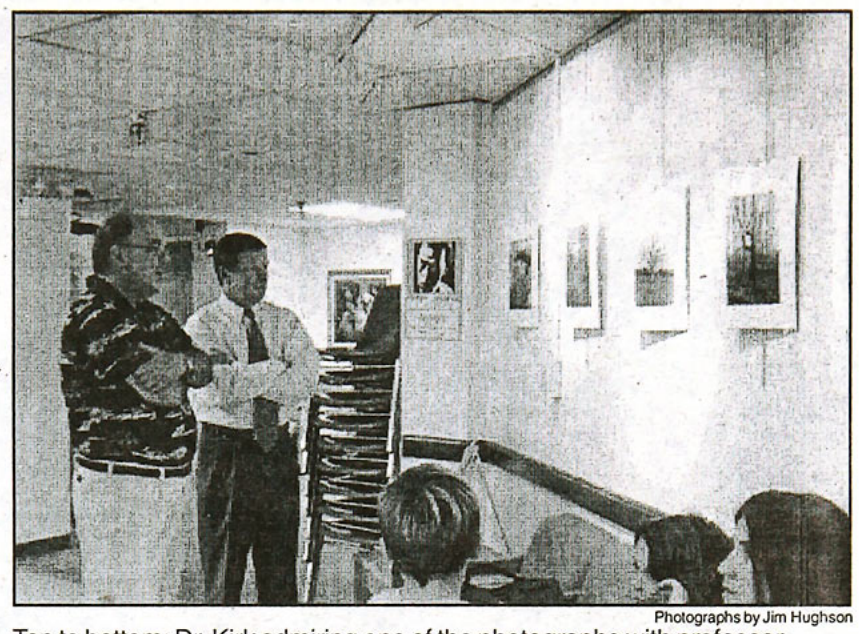
One may water a plant for as long as they like, but sunlight and good soil are needed for that plant to grow and develop. Good grades do not get anyone closer to self-actualization. Maybe there should be weekend bonfires and bar-b-ques, and an assortment of board games for every floor of every dorm.

Our society is becoming very regimented for young people. It is simply no longer safe to let a child run all around the county every night playing, so put them in dance class, then soccer, than piano class, then youth group, and let them play at home with video games.

Bracken's freshman program may be the best thing for many freshmen. There are, however, some students who did not grow up in such a structure.

I, personally, am a freshman who grew up in Juneau, Alaska, and did well in a Florida high school, but hated every moment of it because of its imposing structure. The high school in Juneau had an hour lunch and allowed students to walk off campus. When I was a child, I could wander the mountain I grew up on, as long as I obeyed my parents and came back to the neighborhood by dark. I do well in all of his classes and have said that I would probably still do well in the proposed program, but I would hate school.

A freshman program such as this would have many benefits and probably would produce better grades. Are good grades all of what college is about? It can be argued that this new idea greatly de-emphasizes responsible stewardship, and it discourages independence and self-discovery, but are most Saint Leo freshman ready for independence or self-discovery?



Photographs by Jim Hughson

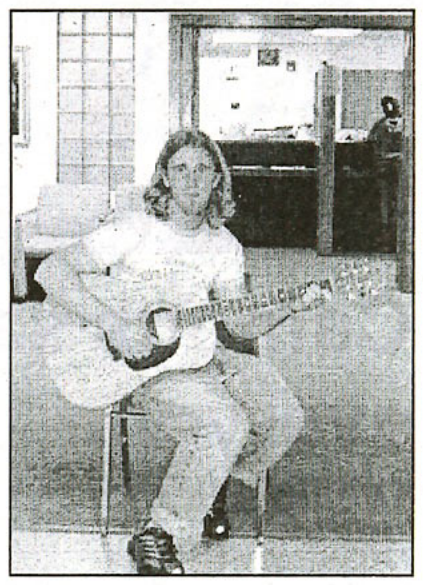
Top to bottom: Dr. Kirk admiring one of the photographs with professor Hughson; Brendan Riley, a student, delighted attendees with his guitar.

GALLERY CON'T

talented staff members.

"In the future we are planning to have shows open to all the students and staff of Saint Leo," says Hughson. "Anyone interested can contact any member of the steering committee for more information."

The steering committee consists of: Dr. Mary Spoto, Dr. James Hughson, Dr. Karen Philips, Dr. Kurt Wilt, and Dr. Astrid Vicas. Any one of these people will be happy to assist anyone interested in submitting a art work to the upcoming galleries.



Paying for college may become more difficult

BY TERESA KRUG
Iowa State Daily (Iowa State U.)

(U-WIRE) AMES, Iowa — Students may end up losing their federal grants and loans because of a bill recently approved by the Congress on Nov. 20.

The bill eliminates a provision that would have barred the Department of Education from changing the formula for student financial aid eligibility on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, said Roberta Johnson, associate director of financial aid.

The exact impact is uncertain, but if the new formula had gone into effect last year, it would have prevented about $270 million from being spent on Federal Pell grants, and there are similar projections for this year, according to the New York Times. Although many students might receive smaller grants if the bill takes effect, anywhere from 84,000 to 90,000 students could lose their Pell Grants. Nearly 100,000 students could lose their federal grants entirely.

"Every single student who filled out a FAFSA form could be affected," Johnson said.

She said the formula would be changed to make families filling out the FAFSA look like they have more money to contribute to their child's college education — at least on paper. Students would appear to have less financial need and could miss out on subsidized loans, grants and work-study programs, Johnson said.

"This will have ramifications and ripple effects all along the way," she said.

Families filling out the FAFSA who make less than $15,000 a year now subtract 8 percent of their income tax from their adjusted growth income. Families who make more than $15,000 subtract 7 percent. The new bill could change the numbers to 3 and 4 percent respectively, Johnson said.

The changes to a student's financial status won't take effect this year, however.

"Students may still be protected for one more year," Johnson said. "Nothing that I've read indicates that that will happen in the '05-'06 school year."

John Parker, director of College Consulting Services at Iowa Student Loan, said it is unclear whether this bill will lead to a change in students' financial status.

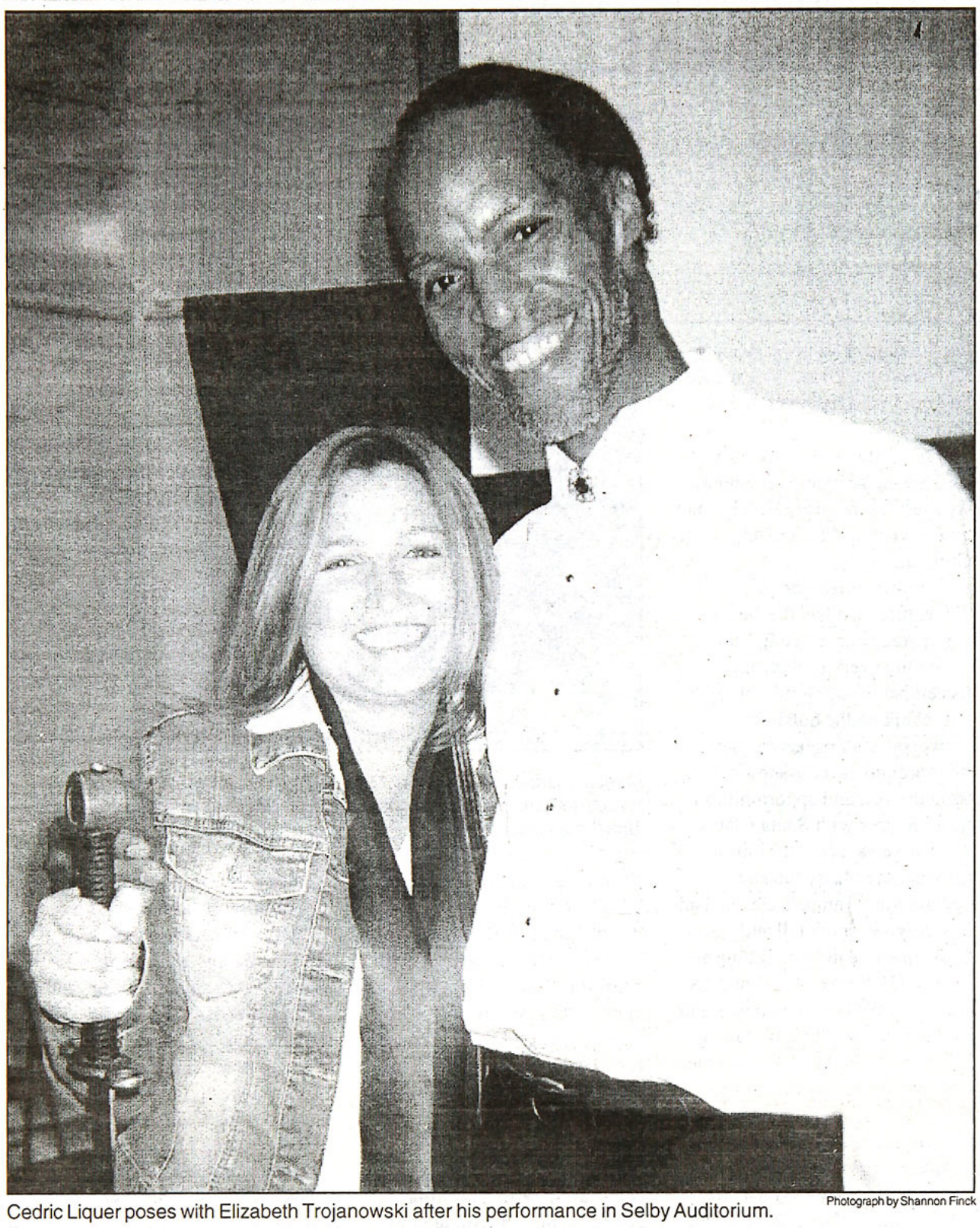
"The door has been opened back up to let this occur," he said.

He said there would be a negative effect on dependent students in 49 of the 50 states, with Connecticut being the exception.

Independent students in 35 of the states would also be negatively hit.

"The formula change would affect federal eligibility, state eligibility and institutional eligibility," Parker said.

"It's not clear what will happen and when," he said.



Cedric Liquer poses with Elizabeth Trojanowski after his performance in Selby Auditorium. Photograph by Shannon Finck

The whole of life was in that cry: the performance poetry of Cedric Liquer

BY SHANNON FINCK
Special to The Lions' Pride

SAINT LEO - Austere in his crisp white shirt and black slacks, but appearing elegant nonetheless at his towering height, Cedric Liquer waltzes into Selby Auditorium and shouts, "Give me a penny!"

Nothing precedes him but his own appearance. The crowd immediately silences their extraneous conversations, which now seem trivial, and pay their full attention to the man demanding coins in quantities increasing exponentially with every few lines he speaks.

Cedric has performed at Saint Leo several times, and referred to his Thursday night performance as a "homecoming" for him. For those who have seen Cedric perform before, he brought to us another brilliant merge of classic poetry. Those who had never seen him were simultaneously shocked, baffled, and delighted by the varying dynamics of Cedric's speech and his affinity for audience participation.

River Wallace, the young son of English student Rebekah Wallace, crawled under his chair as Cedric approached him, then giggled with delight when he spoke. Another Saint Leo student, Jerome, asked Cedric, "What are you?" to which Cedric wittily replied, "I am everything, and that's all I can say."

Cedric's amazing ability to memorize and flawlessly perform long pieces is always amazing. This time he performed a combination he wrote of *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare and some of the work of Dante, among other short pieces by well known poets such as Yeats. His theme was love and death. He performed this solo with no props, but the audience soon found he needed no extraneous accouterments or any supporting actors.

Liquer has previously worked with the Royal Shakespeare Company, but travels doing mostly solo work throughout Canada and the United States as of late. He puts together all of his own performances and books all of his appearances. He travels from places varying from high schools and elementary schools to prisons and retirement homes, and claims he learned everything he needs to be successful from his travels. He has no formal education in theater, but is clearly gifted inherently. Falling into theater by accident when his dreams of becoming a scientist fell through, Cedric says that literature showed him ways to make the most out of his life.

While everyone was sad to see Cedric go, he gave them another great show, ending the night with these poetic words to live by: "May you be blessed with good friends. May you learn to be a good friend to yourself." Cedric, one thing is for sure, the students, faculty, and staff at Saint Leo are blessed to count you as a friend.

From Kappa Lambda to Tau Kappa Epsilon

BY LOUIS RITUCCI
Lions' Pride Staff

SAINT LEO - You might have noticed seeing a different group of letters around campus. Those letters are TKE. They stand for Tau Kappa Epsilon and today they represent the fraternity that was formally Kappa Lambda.

Tau Kappa Epsilon is the largest national fraternity in the world. It consists of eight former members of KË (Kappa Lambda) and nine newly recruited members.

Tau Kappa Epsilon is a social fraternity that helps out in the community and on campus as well. They have participated in events such as the Heart Walk; Community Service Day, where they helped beautify the Pioneer Museum; and hosted a Halloween party for foster children in the surrounding area. They are selling TKE dating books around campus that benefit the Ronald Reagan Association.

"As a national fraternity we hope to promote a sense of community through educational, recreational and service coordinated events," said James Blade, president of the fraternity.

Tau Kappa Epsilon used to be a fraternity on campus from 1989-1997. Upon the closing of the sigma-theta chapter, the men from that TKE chapter created a local fraternity that is now known as Kappa Lambda.

"The Greek community has changed a lot since I joined my freshman year," said Mike Brochu, former IFC president, former member of KË, and new member of TKE. "It only seemed like a natural decision to transition from being a great local fraternity to a great national fraternity."

"I'm glad that we chose to return to out National roots because TKE is the largest National fraternity in the country," Brochu said.

The Greek community should benefit from its re-instatement. With a promising rush class upcoming next semester, students should only see TKE grow, and they should see the letters TKE much more often.

Arts & Entertainment

PLAN FOR THE HOLIDAYS

BY JENNIFER REILLY
Lions' Pride Entertainment Editor

If Tampa is your home or you are settled here for the holidays, entertainment is plentiful and the spirit of Christmas is overflowing the Tampa streets and attractions.

The celebrations seem to begin around December 10 when Universal Islands of Adventure hosts "Grinchmas." The festival is based on the classic Dr. Seuss book, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, and the fuzzy green character known as the Grinch makes a daily appearance.
The area of Islands of Adventure, known as Seuss Landing, is converted into a winter wonderland featuring the beloved Whos of Whoville and Christmas decorations galore. The Whos gather daily for a Whobilation, a musical depiction of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas.*

In addition to live entertainment and an overall feeling of joy and holiday glee, "Grinchmas" offers a traditional feast in the Circus McGurkus Café Stoo-pendous. The festivities do not end until January 8, so the opportunity for Saint Leo students to attend lasts 29 days.

"My family just moved here to Tampa, so I'll be going home for the holidays. I've never been to Universal, but Grinchmas sounds like fun," said freshmen Ashley-Jo Murry.

"I've always wanted to go," said Sierra Yeargan, a freshman who resides in Spring Hill, FL, but will be visiting Chicago for Christmas.

Universal Islands of Adventure also has the Macy's Day parade and a tree lighting ceremony every night from December 10 through January 8. City Walk on the outskirts of Universal Studios has carriage rides around the city, snow falling from the sky, and opportunities to take pictures with Santa Clause.

Universal is not the only provider of holiday fun and celebrations. Tampa's Channelside has a nightly snow fall and Christmas tree lighting lasting all month. On December 17 and 18 there will be a real bearded Santa, Elf, and stilt walker. Also taking place on December 18 is a lighted boat parade across the Tampa Bay.

The Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center is featuring a production of "Holiday Cabaret" in the Cadillac Cabaret Series. This show is running from November 27- December 19. For more information call, (813) 229-7827.

Universal Islands of Adventure 2004
Meet the Grinch and his dog, Max,see the Whos from Dr. Seuss' "Whoville," and enjoy the nightly Whoville Whobilation Show during the Grinchmas celebration.

Even closer than Tampa, charming Dade City will host its annual "Christmas on Church Street" December 21- 23 featuring luminaries, life size Christmas cards, and a home decorating contest.

"It's a very traditional, family- oriented, Christmas celebration with Christmas concerts, hot chocolate, and games for children," said sophomore and San Antonio resident Christie Ricardo. "You always see people you know and you can't help but stop to chat," she added excitedly.

As this Christmas approaches quickly, gather your loved ones and take advantage of the loving environment the holiday creates here in Tampa, Dade City, or your own hometown.

MUSIC IN REVIEW

CD REVIEW: Linkin Park, Jay-Z mix styles

BY BRANDON HARIG
Michigan Daily (U. Michigan)

(U-WIRE) ANN ARBOR, Mich. - Jay-Z marked his retirement with the critically lauded "Black Album," but he may be the most active retiree this side of Florida. After re-collaborating with R. Kelly on a disappointing effort aptly titled "Unfinished Business," Jigga also advertised that a second joint project would be released. That album, "Collision Course," is a blend of some of Linkin Park and Jay-Z's most successful tracks into an odd concoction that somehow works.

The album begins with the screaming guitar rock of Linkin Park grating behind the hip-hop rhythms and melodic lyrics of Jay-Z's "Dirt Off Your Shoulder" and LP's "Lying From You." The track is a tight synthesis of both originals, and the result is energetic and original. Produced by Linkin Park's Mike Shinoda, the album hits its stride when the energy of electric rock meets Jay-Z's lyrics — the predominant theme of the collaboration.

At times, the album comes across as merely Jay-Z's rhymes over a Linkin Park song. "Big Pimpin'/Papercut" is identical to the original "Big Pimpin'" with no variation of the original lyric or chorus, as Jigga reassures everyone that he's a "pimp in every sense of the word." This sort of exactness does not hinder Linkin Park, though, as every track stretches their lyrics onto a format well beyond what they were intended. Songs are sped up and slowed down, each forcing a different delivery from Linkin Park's Chester Bennington and Mike Shinoda — a challenge they are up for in each event. This includes Shinoda's singing attempt at singing the first verse of "99 Problems." Delivering Jay-Z's lyrics without the trademark Jigga slur, Shinoda manages to make the song his own all. At the same time, Jay displays mastery when he pushes himself, laying down an amazing lyrical delivery during "Jigga What/Faint" as the background delivers a double-time tempo for him to sing against.

Though "Collision Course" is a collaborative effort, it is obvious that Jay-Z is the focus. Linkin Park often fall into a background vocal to Jigga or jump in for the second half of the song, playing second fiddle to one of rap's living legends. This also seems to be the case on the accompanying DVD, which features an MTV performance with all of the tracks from the collaboration. Visually, Bennington and Shinoda seem to fade into the background while Jay-Z takes center stage.

With their seven-track release, Jay-Z and Linkin Park don't seem to take many chances, though it is an experiment all the same. While some songs like "Izzo/In the End" come off as almost boring, the up-tempo tracks from "Collision Course" more than make up for it. Though "Numb/Encore" has been the featured release from the album, there are numerous tracks from the record that can be lauded for their quality. With "Collision Course," Shinoda was able to make an experimental release that featured the best of Jay-Z with a rock accompaniment worthy of a post-retirement release.

COMMENTARY: Awards show 'Source' of mediocrity

BY MARQUIS TAYLOR
The South End (Wayne State U.)

(U-WIRE) DETROIT - What do Lil Jon, Cassidy, Chingy and Nelly all have in common? They each personify and epitomize the steady demise hip-hop music has suffered within the past few years.

And to think, each received a shipload of nominations at The Source Awards while managing to put in a performance or two.
The Source Awards was supposedly the place to showcase hip-hop music at its finest hour, but instead, presented lackluster performances, "B-list" rappers, and more evidence that the music is spiraling straight into the depths of hell.
The show itself was hosted by BET's "Rap City" personality Big Tigger, and Miami native Trina. It was also broadcast on BET for the second year in a row before a host of Southern rap fans. Still, not even the Southern crowd could show hospitality to the award's opening act, Mase, who looked like he belonged on a treadmill instead of a stage because of his shortage of breath.
One has to wonder why The Source decided to host another show in the "Dirty South" after last year's fiasco and lack of "real hip-hop" presence. But then again, this is The Source, the same hip-hop magazine whose co-owner, Ray Benzino, utilizes his power just to advertise his mediocre music within the publication.

The entire show embodied both the magazine as well as Michael Jordan's stint during his second comeback with the Washington Wizards. Sure there were traces of glory left but overall, you wanted it to come to an end so their legacies would be further tarnished.
You'd think that these awards would have taken the time to recognize or even mention the likes of Talib Kweli, Common Sense and The Roots, who rarely receive mainstream exposure.

Instead, they do the complete opposite and reserve stage time for Lil Wayne to half-heartedly perform his latest single, "Go DJ" To make matters worse, they gave stage time to R&B's flavor of the month (excuse me, latest sensation) Ciara to puncture her lungs while making efforts to sing her summer's hit, "Goodies."

The final nail in the coffin came about when "Lyricist of the Year" was announced and Cassidy, of all the rappers in the world, was mentioned. Hearing his name being called alongside Jay-Z and even Kanye West made you wonder if you were better off excusing yourself to go to the bathroom, or sitting through the remainder of the show.

What lacked throughout these awards was a combination of presence, intensity and simply, entertainment. The Source Awards in the past had always managed to stand out from other award shows because it offered a share of entertainment as well as impromptu actions. .
From Snoop Dogg's loyalty to his West Coast roots with a bat in hand as he stood on a New York stage in 1995, to Suge Knight's degradation of P. Diddy on that same night, all helped to make The Source Awards "must-see TV."
Still, regardless of the monstrosity, The Source served fans again this year. It sure beat watching a pointless second showing of last month's Vibe Awards.

MOVIES IN REVIEW

"Closer" a brilliant Oscar contender

BY MATT SCALICI
The Crimson Tide (U. Alabama)

(U-WIRE) TUSCALOOSA, Ala. - There are enough films about love to last three lifetimes, but not many of them show love as an ugly, spiteful and destructive force. That's the version of love that director Mike Nichols shows us in "Closer," a film so original, so powerful and so perfectly crafted that it has to be considered the frontrunner for almost every major award at this year's Academy Awards.

The film stars four acclaimed actors in the performances of their respective careers. Jude Law is Dan, an obituary writer for a London newspaper who is struck by love when ex-stripper Alice (Natalie Portman) is struck by a taxi right in front of him. The two fall quickly in love, but over the course of the film's timeline, which spans four years, the addition of two other characters into their lives complicates and threatens to destroy their love.

The first is Anna (Julia Roberts), an American photographer who captures the fancy of Dan. Dan really doesn't understand why he is so compulsively in love with Anna or why he doesn't seem to appreciate the love Alice has for him, but he chooses to pursue Anna, and with her, his own destruction.

The next player to enter the game is Larry (Clive Owen), a dermatologist and sexual savage. Larry happens upon Anna as the result of a practical joke played by Dan. Larry and Anna fall in love and get married, but unfortunately their marriage brings the admission by Anna that she has been having an affair with Dan. Her admission ends both her marriage as well as Dan's relationship with Alice.
The results of Anna and Dan's affair are truly disastrous upon all four characters, and the ways in which each of these characters deal with the other three are complex, deeply psychological and brutally honest. Love causes so many complications and problems for these four people, and, as in real life, none of them really knows exactly why they act the way they do. They lie when they should be sincere, and they are truthful when the truth is hurtful.

2004 Columbia Pictures
Jude Law and Julia Roberts star as two married people destined to destroy their marriages.

These characters are as real as I've ever seen in a fictional film, and the way in which playwright Patrick Marber has captured the painful confusion of someone torn apart by love is simply breathtaking. There is perhaps more truth in "Closer" about love and people than any documentary you will ever see.

Of course, these characters couldn't be brought to life without the four actors playing them. Though it's never happened before, I believe all four actors (Law, Portman, Roberts and Owen) all undoubtedly deserve Oscar nominations for their work here.

Then, of course, there's the brilliant direction of Mike Nichols. To be able to direct four flawless performances is one thing, but to then take them and accentuate each performance with an incredible visual style and an undeniably distinctive voice is something that only the true masters of the craft are capable of. "Closer" is Nichols' best work since "The Graduate," and I believe the Academy will honor him with both a Best Director nomination and a Best Picture nod.

"Closer" is not your mother's love story. It is not a happy film, nor is it one that I believe will appeal to most audiences. That is not to say that it is not one of the most stunningly true films ever made about love, which it is. "Closer" is painful, brilliant, honest and, most of all, a truly great film.

Sports

Violence in sports...

BY MATTHEW McGOWAN
Lions' Pride Staff

The sports world was at an all-time low on November 19, 2004. During a professional basketball game, a major brawl occurred, first involving players and then eventually escalating into the stands. The fight started when Indiana Pacers forward Ron Artest deliberately fouled Ben Wallace of the Detroit Pistons. Wallace retaliated by pushing Artest and a shove match ensued. As this fight was calming down, a fan from the stands threw a cup of beer onto Artest. Acting wildly, Artest ran into the stands and started punching the fan who he thought threw the cup. Other Pacers players entered the stands and a massive scuffle broke out. The players were pulled out of the stands and continued to fight other fans who were on the court and taunting the players. The fight was eventually stopped, and the game was abandoned. As the players tried to leave the court, more cups were poured and thrown on the players.

The NBA was obviously upset and because of the altercation eight players were suspended. Artest received the hardest punishment being suspended for the remainder of the season. It equals seventy-three games, not including if the Pacers make the playoffs. It is the longest suspension in NBA history. Other players suspended are Stephen Jackson of the Pacers, who was suspended for 30 games; Jermaine O'Neal of the Pacers, who was suspended 25 games; Ben Wallace of the Pistons, who received a six-game suspension.

The commissioner of the NBA, David Stern, said of the incident, "The actions of the players involved wildly exceeded the professionalism and self-control that should be fairly be offered by professional sports." Pistons' coach Larry Brown agreed.

"I'm just embarrassed for our league and disappointed being a part of with the young people seeing that," said Brown.

Fighting is not new to professional sports, nor at Saint Leo University. On October 27, 2004, the Saint Leo Soccer team played host to the University of Tampa. About halfway through the first half, a small fight broke out between junior captain Giancarlo Conte of the Lions and Ingo Fochler of the Spartans. The scuffle was short, but other players from both teams joined in including Leo goalkeeper Mathis Parez who came from the other side of the field. While this was going on, an exchange of words was taking place in the stands between the fans of the two sides. Security had to come over, and the matter was quickly resolved.

Fighting in sports is becoming all to common in many sports including baseball fights when a pitcher hits a batter, a pre-game fight before an NFL football game between the Steelers and the Bengals, a fight during a hockey game, or a fight in the stands at a soccer game in England. The fighting is becoming too common and it is taking away from the game. Players are getting suspended, and in this incident, the Pacers have lost their three best players for the next 25 games. Overall the fighting needs to stop and the actions on the field or court need to speak for the players.

Fighting is becoming too common in the modern sports era and it is taking away from the game. Fans go to the games to be entertained and watch their favorite players, but that can not happen if the player is suspended for fighting. The national news media thinks that the fighting comes from the increased amount of violence in culture today.

Fighting in sports, along with TV, and video games is cause children to have poor role models and grow up to be violent, more aggressive people. The fighting needs to stop because it is taking away from the sport and giving a poor example to kids.

"Who cares? I'm over it."
- Rob Lynch

"Being a professional player, going into the stands is not very porfessional."
- Kenrick Roberts

"It seems like the players are getting out of hand. They need to control themselves."
- Ben Wright

"It was bad because the players are suppose to be setting an example."
- Colleen Dooley

"Fighting in sports has become ridiculous. The fans' involvement is inexcusable."
- Josh Wethington

"They are normal people and shouldn't be treated different then normal people who were fighting."
- Amanda Davis

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday. We look forward to the New Year!